

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 309

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2337

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SADAT, MRS. JIHAN)

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PRIVATE VISIT TO US OF MRS.SADAT

1. MRS. MARY POMEROY, REPRESENTING THE "DELEGATION FOR FRIENDSHIP AMONG WOMEN," CALLED TODAY TO INFORM ME OF HER ORGANIZATION'S PLAN TO INVITE MRS. SADAT TO MAKE A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US FROM SEPTEMBER 7 TO SEPTEMBER 24, 1976. THE ORGANIZATION IS APPARENTLY WORKING WITH ATIF GAMAL EL-DIN OF HOUSTON'S ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO LAY ON THE TRIP. THE ITINERARY DRAWN UP BY MRS. POMEROY CALLS FOR VISITS TO A SERIES OF SIX OR SEVEN MID-WESTERN CITIES AND ENDS UP IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO MRS. POMEROY, THE HOUSTON ARAB-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL FINANCE THE TRIP. TRIP ALLEGEDLY DRAWN UP BECAUSE MRS. SADAT HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MAKING A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US AT SOME TIME.

2. THE PRESENT ITINERARY AND DATES HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY MRS. SADAT. HOWEVER, MRS. POMEROY IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH HER LATER TODAY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. IF THESE DATES ARE NOT SATISFACTORY, MRS. POMEROY EXPECTS TO ASK FOR OTHER DATES WHICH MIGHT FIT MORE CONVENIENTLY INTO MRS. SADAT'S SCHEDULE.

3. I POINTED OUT THAT MRS. SADAT IS OF COURSE
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WELCOME TO VISIT THE US AT ANY TIME THAT SHE WISHES.

HOWEVER, I HOPED THE SPONSORS OF THE PROPOSED TRIP WOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE IS NEVER ANY SUCH THING AS A TOTALLY PRIVATE VISIT BY A FIRST LADY AND THE SECURITY ASPECT OF ANY SUCH TRIP MUST INEVITABLY BE PART OF PLANNING. MRS. POMEROY OPINED THAT MID-WESTERN CITIES INCLUDED ON THE PORPOSED ITINERARY SHOULD BE LESS OF A SECURITY PORBLEM THAN VARIOUS OTHERS HAVING ACTIVE JDL CHAPTERS. SHE INDICATED AWARENESS, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECURITY ASPECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED AND WONDERED IF DEPT MIGHT PROVIDE SECURITY ESCORTS. I MADE NO COMMITMENT, BUT SIMPLY INDICATED THAT IF MRS. SADAT SHOULD AT ANY TIME DECIDE TO MAKE A PRIVATE TRIP TO THE US, I ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY WOULD ADVISE ME THEREOF TO CHECK OUT WITH DEPT ANY OBSERVATIONSIT MAY WISH TO MAKE.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING AT THE MOMENT WHETHER THE SEPTEMBER DATES WILL BE AGREEABLE TO MRS. SADAT. ASSUMING THEY ARE, PLEASE ADVISE IF SUCH A VISIT ON THOSE DATES GIVES US ANY PROBLEMS VIS-A-VIS PROTOCOL OR SECURITY ASPECTS.
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